

67-2215

21 November 1967  
SG-67/667

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Machine Records Briefing for Representatives of Criminal  
Division, Department of Justice - 15 November 1967

Attendees:

Dept. of Justice, Criminal Division

Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Div.  
Mr. Richard L. Braun  
Mr. Henry Peterson  
Mr. Edward J. Pesce  
Mr. Maurice D. Gelger  
Mr. Frederick Watts  
Mr. Gerald Shur

CIA

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Mr. Lawrence Houston, General Counsel



1. The machine records briefing for the Justice Department group was requested by Mr. Vinson in a conversation with Mr. Houston. In the briefing prepared by CI Staff and Systems Group, emphasis was placed on computer systems which have a potential for storing and collating information on organized crime. It was not definitely known that Mr. Vinson was coming to the briefing until he actually arrived, at which time Mr. Karamessines was notified and came to greet Mr. Vinson and his group.

2. DC/SG described CIA counter intelligence responsibilities under NSCID 5/3, and briefly reviewed the history of machine records in the Clandestine Services - establishment of indexing criteria, automating of document control and retrieval, development of the [redacted] document machines, and mechanization of name search in the 201 Index.

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3. Mr. Henry Peterson then described the problem faced by the Criminal Division in attempting to utilize machine records in the effort to combat organized crime. There are an estimated 5,000 "principals" in organized crime; and about 3,000 have been identified and the information recorded on 5x7 cards. In addition, there are about 300,000 cards on individuals associated with the principals and on businesses and organizations connected with organized crime. The cards on principals contain summary information on their activities, aliases, physical description, car licence numbers, telephone numbers, names of relatives and associates, sources, etc. There are cross indexes for categories of crime, car license numbers, and telephone numbers. Mr. Peterson said the Criminal Division has 20 clerks who maintain the manual index system. Systems surveys have been made by IBM and System Development Corporation, and the conclusion reached that the manual system was good in terms of what Justice was able to spend, but that greater effectiveness could be achieved at a price - several man years, of analysis and about \$100,000 for the systems study. Criminal Division has access to a small 1401 computer and about 3 ADP people. They wanted to know the best way to begin, e.g. should they recruit systems analysts or train their own people. [ ] said that we had found it necessary to train people from within our ranks. Our managers and analysts then work in concert with IBM contractors to develop major data processing systems for the Clandestine Services.

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5. At Mr. Peterson's request, [ ] described the name trace cycle and the interaction of people, manual records and computer systems. He then went on to describe the development of the Generalized Information Collation System (GICS) as a Counter Intelligence research tool. [ ] distributed copies of a U. S. Defector machine listing and explained how

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data is input to the system, machine indexes, and search capability. Mr. Vinson caught on to the system quickly, and reading the personality summary of [ ] he remarked that one of [ ] contacts, recorded in the machine listing, was presently under indictment.

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6. The problem of the Criminal Division is how to make a start in the use of automatic data processing short of a major commitment of manpower and funds. The CS representatives suggested that Justice set up a computer file on organized crime, using the GICS input form as a guide and modifying it to fit their target. The Justice group talked in terms of a test input on the five Cosa Nostra families in New York, comprising about 700 people and about 7,000 associates, and felt that this was a large enough sample to constitute a meaningful pilot program. DC/SG noted that while our GICS programs were available, the small 1401 computer at Justice does not have sufficient capacity to utilize our programs. Justice was advised to look into available "software packages," such as Informatics Mark IV or IBM's GIS, which could be used to get their pilot program going.

7. The Justice representatives said they found the GICS approach very close to what they need to control information on organized crime. They were heartened by the fact that there are solutions available for their problem, and that we are doing analogous work in the CI field. The CS representatives urged them to contact us if they have any further questions or problems with which we can be helpful.

[ ]

DC/DDP/SG

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